

THERE IS A PRESENT FOR YOU INSIDE!

# Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

No. 13 • 7th February 1970

PRICE 1/3

*Seven Hills to Happiness*



**FREE  
INSIDE!**

Lots of fun with  
**OSWALD THE OWL**  
Another Merry Model—  
your very own Wise Old Owl!



# The Water Babies

Tom, the little chimney-sweep, goes to Harthover House with his bad-tempered master, Mr. Grimes. In the big old house Tom loses his way in the twisting chimneys and comes into a bedroom where a pretty girl is asleep. He tries to go back up the chimney but makes a noise and wakes her up.



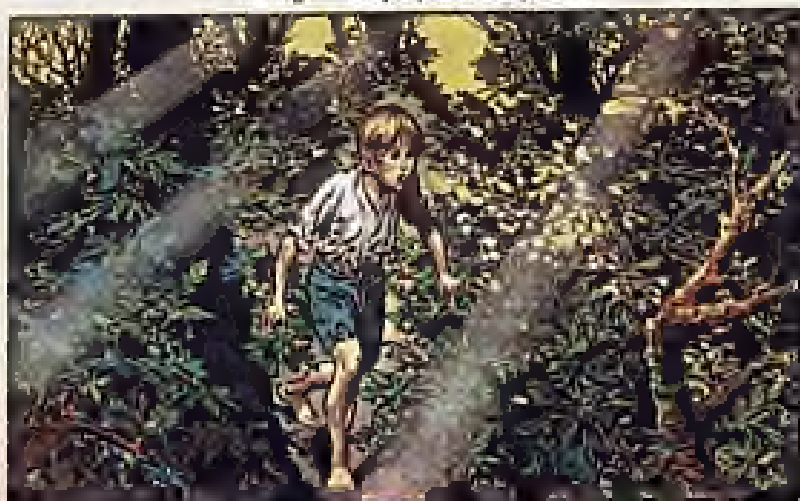
1. It was the clatter of fire-irons tumbling over in the hearth that woke up the sleeping girl and she gave a loud scream. "Help! There is someone in my room—a horrid boy, all dirty and black and covered in soot," she shouted, and this brought her nurse hurrying into the room. "I'll deal with the young rascal, Ellie," said the nurse. Poor Tom was so scared that he dodged away from the fireplace and made for the window. All he wanted to do was to get out.



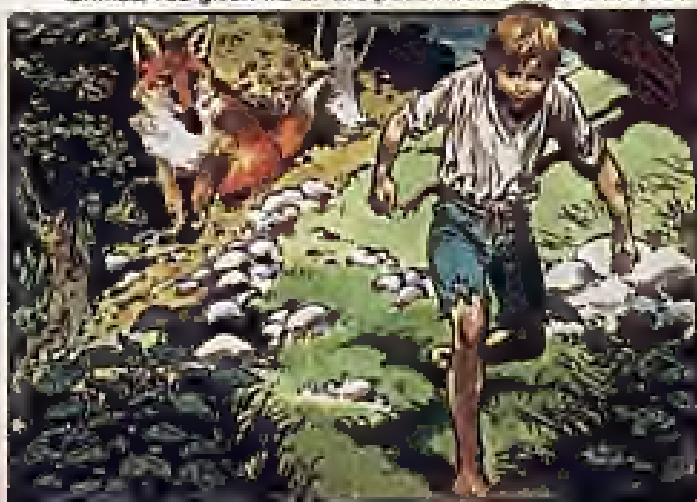
2. Luckily for Tom, a tall tree grew just outside the window. He was a quick-moving little lad with no fear of heights and he made a daring jump to reach the tree-trunk. He could hear the noise in the bedroom, with the old nurse screeching for help at the top of her voice. "They must not catch me," thought Tom, as he slid down the tree, not caring that the rough trunk scratched the inside of his legs. "They'd put me in prison."



3. As he reached the ground, the shouting was louder and it dinned in Tom's head. "There he is," exclaimed the gardener. "Catch him!" "Don't let him get away," said the butler. "He's got to be punished." "No, thank you," parried Tom, speeding away across the lawn. "My master, Mr. Grimes, has given me all the punishment I need in the past."



4. With tears in his eyes, Tom ran through some bushes, not really looking where he was going. He tumbled into a brick wall—and a brick wall makes you see all manner of beautiful stars. They go in a split second, but the pain which comes after them does not. Tom hurt his head, but he was a brave boy, so over the wall he went like a squirrel. He guessed that he would find more open country outside.



5. The first thing Tom did was to take a sharp turn to the right, hoping to deceive those who were chasing him. In that the cunning little fellow succeeded very well. The shouts and sounds of running died away behind him and only a fox saw the lad hurrying through the bushes. The fox felt sorry for Tom, for it knew only too well what it was like to be hunted.



6. By now the little chimney-sweep was right away into thick heather and climbing up a slope, jogging along at a steady pace, able to stare at the new world he was in. He saw lizards and thought they were snakes that would sting him. But they were as frightened as he was and scurried away. Next, Tom had a big fright. As he hurried through the heather something went off in his face with a

most horrid noise—whirr-pool-pool-cock-cock-kick! For a moment Tom shut his eyes, thinking that the ground had blown up. When he opened his eyes, it was only an old cock pheasant, which had been lying in the heather and had jumped up with the noise of an express train when Tom nearly trod on it. Away into the sky it soared with whirring wings.



7. Tom went on and on, more slowly now, for he was stumbling over rough ground, which hurt his bare toes. He had run a long way and the sun was as hot as an oven and everything around seemed to be quivering in the glare of it. Tom's head spun round with the heat. "What a big place the world is," he thought. From the top of a cliff he could see down to a cottage in a deep, green valley below.



8. Beside the cottage ran a cool-looking stream. Tom felt hot and dizzy and knew that somehow or other, he must get down to it. Inside his head he thought he could hear the ringing of bells and he was almost too tired to make the effort to climb down the steep slope. "There will be people down there," he thought. "Perhaps someone will give me a bite to eat."



9. At last Tom got to the bottom of the slope. The sun was burning, yet he felt chilled all over. He was quite empty and yet he felt quite sick. In answer to Tom's knock on the door came the nicest old woman he had ever seen, but she raised her hands in horror at the sight of him. "A chimney-sweep?" she said. "Away with you. I'll have no grubby sweeps here!" "Water!" said Tom, quite faint. "Water?" said the woman. "There's plenty for you in the stream."



10. Tom sank down on the ground and laid back against the wall. Then he asked: "Is it Sunday? I hear church bells ringing in my head." "Bless your pretty heart," said the old lady. "You're a real sick child. Water would be bad for you in the state you're in. I know what might be best for you—a drink of good, warm milk."

See what happens to Tom, the little chimney-sweep, in next week's *Once Upon A Time* . . . and get your Free Gift.





1. The only member of the monkey family to sleep in the day is the Howler monkey, or Night Ape, which lives in South America. At night, when it wakes up and moves around, its large bright eyes help it to see well in the dark.



2. In the day, the Tawny Owl rests sitting bolt upright in a hollow tree. At night, it hunts and flies and its keen eyes and ears help it catch the slightest movement of rats, mice and other woodland creatures.

Here are some more interesting "All sorts" pages. Each week we show you all sorts of different things in our world. This week:

## All Sorts



3. At night, the Badger leaves its sett and roams the woodland in search of worms and insects and other food to eat. Its striped fur makes it blend in with the patches of moonlight and shadow, so that it is hard to see.



4. The Tawny Frogmouth is an owl which lives in Australia. Resting during the day, perched on a tree with its eyes closed, it looks like the stump of a broken branch. At night, it hunts, flying close to the ground.



5. The Black-Crowned Night Heron roosts in the day, and does most of its feeding at twilight and before dawn. It wades into the water, standing motionless until it sees a fish, then darts its head into the water to catch it.



6. The Tarsier, which lives in the area around Borneo, sleeps in hollow trees during the day. At night, it searches for grasshoppers and other insects. Although it moves about slowly, it can make quite long leaps.

## of Night Creatures



7. The Nighthawk, which comes from North America, is not a hawk at all, but a nightjar. At night it flies around, eating insects which it catches on the wing. In the day, its speckled feathers help it to blend with trees and leaves.



8. The Plain, or Butterfly Bat, is a brightly-coloured little bat, about two inches long, which lives in India and Ceylon. It swoops around at night, searching for food, but spends the daytime hanging in banana plants.



# BRER RABBIT

Brer Rabbit Gets the Best of Mr. Lion.

By Barbara Hayes.

**N**OW one time when all was peace and quiet in the forest and Brer Wolf and Brer Bear and Brer Fox were all minding their own business and Brer Rabbit hadn't played a prank for at least a week—what should happen, but Mr. Lion should come along to spoil everything.

Just as the animals were snuggling down in their beds in the evening to sleep, Mr. Lion would take it into his head to go for a stroll and roar his terrible roar.

ROOOOOOAAAAAARRRRRR! he would go.

And the trees would shake and the leaves would shake and the animals would shake so that even their beds would shake.

ROOOOOOAAAAAARRRRRR! Mr. Lion would go again.

And the trees would shake again and the leaves would shake again and the animals would shake again so that even their beds would shake again.

It was all very upsetting and annoying I can tell you.

The animals got scarcely any sleep and then in the mornings they were a real bunch of grouse-patches.

And as well as being annoyed by the roaring, they were all more than a little bit frightened.

You see, Mr. Lion had big yellow teeth and when he had finished roaring, he used to snap his teeth shut—SNAP!—like that—and then look around, just as if he wanted some tasty little chap to crunch up into a nice snack.

The other animals didn't like any of it—not any of it at all.

Well, things went on like this until it came to



market day, a most important day.

All the animals knew that if they didn't go to market they wouldn't have much to eat the next week.

But they were all afraid to go because there was Mr. Lion sitting on the road to market, snapping his big yellow teeth—SNAP!—like that. And what was worse, he was wearing a bib and had a stewpot and plate and knife and fork ready at the side of the road.

"If we go to market, sure enough, Mr. Lion will catch us and pop us into his stewpot," said the animals.

Then they had an idea.

"Brer Rabbit is the cleverest at escaping from stewpots," they said. "Let us ask him what to do."

So they sneaked round to Brer Rabbit's house, and there was Brer Rabbit as cool as a cucumber, making treacle toffee over a fire in the garden.

"Howdy, Brer Rabbit," they said.

"Howdy!" answered Brer Rabbit.

"Are you thinking of going to market today, Brer Rabbit?"

"Thinking, friends? Yes, I'm a-thinking!"

"Have you thought how you will get past Mr. Lion, Brer Rabbit?"

"I surely have, friends, I surely have."

"Tell us then, Brer Rabbit. Tell us then."

"Well, I just can't tell you, friends. Somehow, just at this minute, I've forgotten. But I think I should remember if you all put a nice shiny shilling into Mrs.

Rabbit's purse. I think I might remember then," said Brer Rabbit.

So all the animals put a shining each into Mrs. Rabbit's purse.

And then Brer Rabbit said:

"Folks, my memory has come back like magic. Just follow me and I will get us all safely past old Master Lion's snappy yellow teeth."

Brer Rabbit put his treacle toffee into a pot and went up the road with it, as if he hadn't a care in the world.

And the other animals crept behind him, hiding behind bushes and trees to see what would happen.

At last Brer Rabbit reached Mr. Lion. ROOOOOOAAAAAARRRRRR! roared Mr. Lion. And he showed his yellow teeth and then snapped them together—SNAP!—like that.

"You're a loofus rabbit to come out near my dinner time," said Mr. Lion.

Brer Rabbit pretended to shake.

"Yes," he said. "And I never would have come, but I must get to market to sell this magic toffee. They say that whoever eats it will be lucky for the rest of his life. And I think I will get a lot of money for it."

Of course, as soon as he heard that greedy Mr. Lion grabbed the toffee and put it all into his mouth at once.

Round his yellow teeth slid the thick, sticky toffee—and there it stuck.

He couldn't open his mouth or roar or

snap his teeth.

All he could do was to mumble and grunt, which didn't frighten anyone.

Now the other animals laughed as they raced past on their way to market.

And when they came back, there was Mr. Lion still struggling with the sticky toffee.

When all the animals were safely past Brer Rabbit called back:

"Wash the toffee off in the stream, Mr. Lion!"

So Mr. Lion did, but he didn't come back to bother Brer Rabbit or his friends again. In a hurry, I can tell you. He had had enough of Brer Rabbit's tricks. There will be another Brer Rabbit story in next week's Free GM number.

#### BRER RABBIT'S RIDDLES

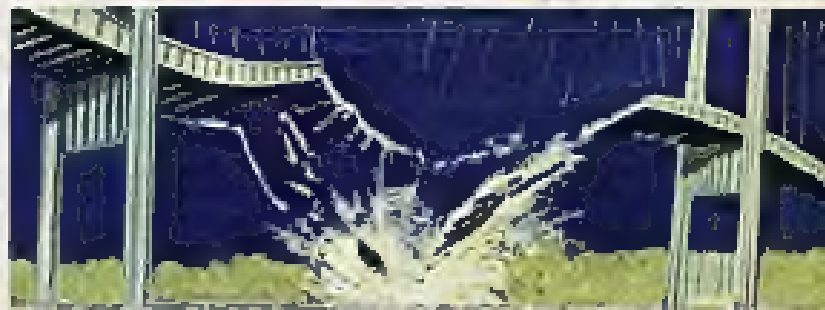
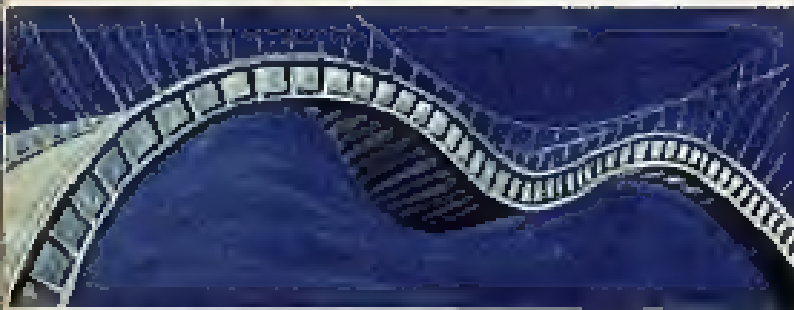
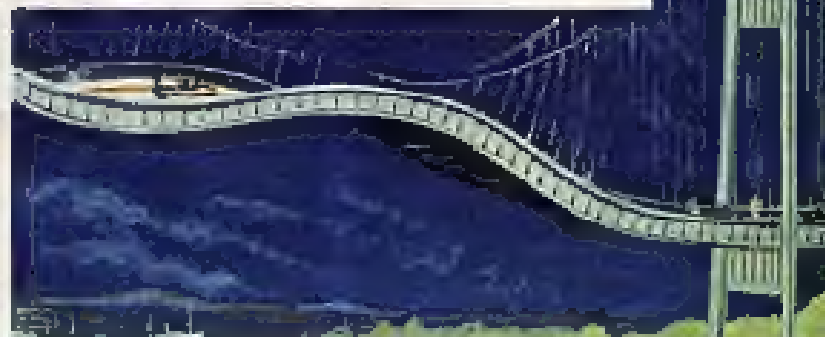
1. Why is a dock so shy?
2. What tradesman finds all his good work trampled upon?
3. What is the first thing you do when falling into water?
4. Why do birds in their nests always agree?

#### ANSWERS:

1. Because it always holds its hands in front of its face.  
2. The blacksmith.  
3. To say "Ouch!"  
4. Because they always agree to disagree.



# Well, Fancy That!



One day, in July, 1940, a car was going across the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, in Washington, U.S.A., when to the driver's surprise the car in front of him suddenly seemed to disappear. It happened because the whole bridge, which had only just been built, had begun to wave about like a flag in the wind. This roping and waving movement went on for three months until at last people nick-named the bridge "Galloping Gertie". Then, in November, four months after the bridge had been finished, it finally shook itself to pieces. A remarkable film of the incident was taken at the time. It was closely studied by bridge builders and has helped bridge designers all over the world to avoid the same mistakes and to build bridges which can withstand great stress. A new, and safe, bridge has since been built over the Tacoma Narrows.



Sometimes, when a ship docks, the captain orders that discs made of iron and zinc are put on to the mooring ropes. Rats on the dockside cannot crawl over them or bite through them, so get on board the ship. The idea was first used by a wasp which lives in the tropics. It makes a kind of paper from the wood of decayed trees and uses this to make its nest. To prevent ants getting to the nest and destroying it, the wasp also makes a round guard and places it above the nest. The ants cannot get across the guard, or chew their way through it.





# FAMOUS NAMES

Interesting facts about people, places and things in our world.



1. **Yuri Gagarin.** On April 12, 1961, the Russians launched the first man into space. The cosmonaut who made the successful trip was Major Yuri Gagarin, and he sped round the earth in the Russian spacecraft Vostok, in one hour and forty-eight minutes, landing again afterwards on Russian soil.



2. **Louis Blériot.** Frenchman Louis Blériot was one of the great pilots in the early history of flying. In 1907 he made several short flights in an aeroplane which he had made himself, and in July 1909 he became the first man to cross the English Channel by aeroplane: he flew from Dover to Calais, a distance of 24½ miles, in 37 minutes.



3. **St Francis Drake.** One of the great Elizabethan seamen, Drake set sail in 1577 in his little ship "The Pelican" (later renamed the "Golden Hind") on his voyage round the world. It took nearly three years. When he returned, laden with captured Spanish treasure, Queen Elizabeth the First knighted him on the deck of his ship.



4. **The Kon Tiki.** Thor Heyerdahl, the Norwegian explorer, believed that the inhabitants of the Polynesian islands sailed across the Pacific Ocean from South America centuries before. To prove this, he built a wooden raft, the "Kon Tiki", on which he and several companions sailed across the Pacific, landing in Polynesia.



## The King's Messenger

This is a Memory Test. When you have read the story, turn to page 18 and try to answer the questions about it.

Among the many stories of King Arthur, there is one which has never been told.

It began when King Arthur sailed from a seaport in the West of England in the Royal barge to meet a Duke of Devon. It was believed that this duke had made a solemn vow to serve the King. Therefore, King Arthur had happily gone on a voyage to call upon the duke and thank him for his loyalty.

But it was learned too late in King Arthur's court that the King was sailing into danger. The duke was no friend of his—instead he intended to kill his royal visitor and put himself on the throne.

At the court there was alarm and confusion. "The King must be



warned, said the noble knights. "But how?" That was the problem. How could it be done? Sir Linton, the King's Messenger, was very ill—and who else knew that coastline well enough to try to overtake the Royal barge and warn the King?

There was only one man—Gareth, the son of Sir Linton. He knew that, during his absence, his father would die from his illness, but Gareth felt that his greater duty lay in saving the life of the King.

He set out on his father's horse, the fastest and strongest of them all. He rode for a day towards the west, working out in his head the state of wind and tide, the speed of the Royal barge, and where it might be at a certain time. Somehow he had to find it.

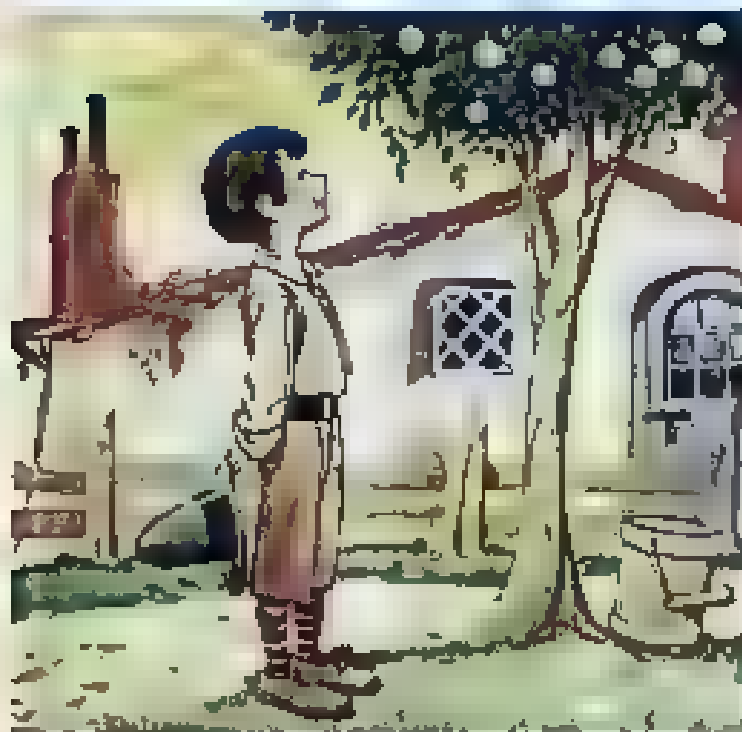
All through the night he rode. When dawn came there was a mist over the sea. Gareth picked his spot carefully, choosing a little bay. There he waited. His tired horse dropped its head. Gareth waited. Had he chosen the right place?

He had indeed. Gliding slowly through the mist came the Royal barge. Gareth called out and got an answering shout. Words were exchanged and King Arthur paid heed to the warning of danger ahead.

The ship turned back. Gareth, too, went back to King Arthur's court. His father had died, but the King's Messenger who took his place was his own son—Sir Gareth.



# Seven Hills to Happiness



Little Carl was the son of a poor farmer. After the apple-blossom on the trees had faded he went into the field every day to see how the fruit was growing. And every day he shook his head sadly. The apples this year are small and green, he said to himself. A crop like that will never be worth selling and poor father will not make any money this year for all his work.



2 As Carl turned away he heard a hoo-hoo-hoo! and a wheet wheet wheet as a big old owl came gliding overhead followed by a fluttering little bird. The owl started Carl by speaking to him. There is only one thing to make the apples grow, said the wise old bird. Fetch some water from the Pool of Magic on top of the Seventh Hill and give it to the apple tree.



3 Oh thank you Wise Old Owl, said Carl. Seizing a bucket he dashed away to the hills and ran over the first second and fourth fifth and sixth. By then he was almost out of breath. Keep going Carl, cheered the owl. It is the seventh hill which will bring you great happiness. Keep running.



4 The seventh hill was the steepest of them all. When he at last reached the top Carl was amazed to find a pool of clear water. This must be the Pool of Magic, he now spoke about. He said to himself. Fill my bucket to the brim and take home as much as I can. The more I take the more Carl gave the tree.



5 With great care, never spilling a drop, Carl walked back home. He was almost at the farm when he met an old man by the side of the road. "I am very thirsty," said the old man. "Could you spare a drink of water from your bucket? I really need it."



6 "Of course," said Carl. The old man took a tasty long drink, sneezed his lips and then said, "Ah, that's much better. But my poor old dog is thirsty, too. May he have a drink as well?" Though he was a little anxious, Carl agreed at once.



7 The dog, however, seemed a good deal thirstier than his master. Sticking his head into the bucket, he sipped and sipped—and Carl's heart sank and sank and sank at the sight of the level of Magic Pool water going down and down.



8 Poor Carl! It seemed that all his long and tiring journey over the seven hills had been just a waste of time. There is not one drop left, hardly enough to sprinkle the roots, he sighed, emptying the bucket. A few drops like these will not do much to make my father's apples grow.



9 Then, suddenly, the magic drops of water turned every apple on the tree into shining gold! And at that very same moment the old man and his dog seemed to disappear—changing into the old owl and the little bird. "You and your father will now be rich, Carl," said the owl. "A golden reward for unselfishness."



## Beautiful Paintings

Here is another delightful painting to add to your collection of Beautiful Pictures from "Once Upon A Time". It was painted by a Van Noord, and is called "Boy With A Hawk". In the older days, hunting with hawks was a popular sport. These birds of prey, as they are called,

were carried on a person's wrist. They wore a hood over their head until a small animal or bird was sighted. Then the hood was taken off, and they were released to fly off and catch it, and then they came back to the gloved hand of the owner.

*(Reproduced by kind permission of the Wallace Collection.)*



# Robert the Bruce

In the time of King Edward the First, Scotland was without a King of her own until a young noble named Robert the Bruce claimed the throne. Instead of a proper crown, which had been taken back to England, he was given a circlet of gold borrowed from a goldsmith. Robert the Bruce is famous for his victory over the English at the Battle of Bannockburn and as King of Scotland he reigned for many years.

If you join the dots from 1 to 79, you will draw a picture of what was on the shield of Robert the Bruce.





# The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse<sup>2</sup>

Stephanie and the King of Mouseland page 2 By Barbara Myles

If you read this story last week you will know that Stephanie and her boyfriend, Nigel, were driving back to town from the country, when their way was blocked by a broken-down car.

Stephanie was just about to have a good grumble at the people in the car

The King of Mouseland got out of his car and bowed over Stephanie's hand.

"I am so sorry that we are blocking your way. I am sure we shall soon be on our way again."

looking round in bewilderment. "Oh, you mean my boyfriend, Nigel. I usually call him stupid blockhead, not kind gentle man. But everyone sees things from a different point of view. Suppose, if you say he's a kind gentleman, I'll take your word for it."

was saying

She was trying to think back to all the things she had shouted when she saw the King's car blocking her way.

trying to remember how loudly she had shouted and whether the King could have heard her from inside the car.

In the end she decided to behave as if she had never shouted anything rude in her life. Then even if the King did hear perhaps he will think he imagined it," she said to herself.

So Stephanie turned to her boyfriend Nigel and said with a sweet smile:

"That's right, Nigel, get on with helping me."

And then, in a whisper that only Nigel could hear, she said:

So Nigel, who was very clever at mending engines and who would have helped

whether it had been the King's car or not, soon had the engine mended.

The King's chauffeur climbed back into the driving seat and the King leaned out of the window to speak to Nigel and Stephanie as they stood at the side of the road.

"Thank you very much for stopping to help," he smiled.

Stephanie opened her mouth to say "Well, we didn't have much choice, with your car blocking the whole road in front of us," and then changed her mind as she was talking to the King. She just smiled sweetly instead.

Then the King reached back into his car and brought out a lovely photo of

Written in the corner of the photograph were the words:

"With best wishes from  
King Oliver."

Perhaps you would like to take this as a present to show my thanks for what you did to help me," he said with a smile, and gave the photo to Nigel.

"Thank you very much," he said.

Then the King drove off and Nigel and Stephanie climbed back into their own car and, of course as Nigel needed his hands free to drive the car, the lovely photograph of the King found its way into Stephanie's hands.

How wonderful to have a signed photograph of the King," she sighed. How jealous my neighbour, Mrs. Top-drawer will be when she sees this photograph on my mantelpiece.

For a moment Nigel was startled. "On your mantelpiece?" he gasped. But the King gave him a smile and said: "Oh, Nigel, tell, tell, tell!"

clutching tightly to the photograph.

"When you know how much pleasure it will give me to show this photograph off to all my friends, how can you even think about having it yourself? Besides, if

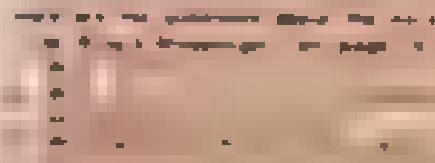
hadn't looked in the back of the car you would never even have known that the King was there. So it's all because of me that we have the photo anyway."

But long before Stephanie had finished speaking Nigel had sighed and made up his mind that he would never get the photo back.

After all, if having the photo to show off with pleased Stephanie, then that makes me happy too," thought good natured Nigel.

And they drove back to town, and for weeks Stephanie was happy and in a good mood, as she showed off to all her friends with the photograph of King Oliver.

There will be another mouse story next week, and a lovely FREE GIFT.



IT'S STILL GOOD NEWS FOR YOU!  
Dear Boys and Girls,  
Are you having fun with your Mr Model of the Wise Old Owl this week?  
Take great care to cut it out and fill it in.

Model of Clarence the Crocodile, so don't miss it!

are YOU MISSING SOME COPIES OF "ONCE UPON A TIME"?

If you are, and would like the back numbers to complete your collection

write: AMWych House, 8 Aldwych, London, W.C. The cost is 1/6d. each, including postage.







# Sinbad the Sailor



1. Alone on a small island, Sinbad the Sailor had discovered an enormous egg, belonging to a great bird called a Roc. With the end of the day, the huge bird came flying back to its egg. It did not see Sinbad, and he quickly hid himself from sight.



2. As Sinbad watched, the Roc glided to the ground and then settled itself upon the egg. All through the night, the giant bird remained there and Sinbad dared not move. At long last, morning came and Sinbad knew the Roc would fly off to find food.



3. "Perhaps I could make use of this bird to help me escape from the island," Sinbad thought to himself. With a thumping heart he crept forward and just as the Roc flew off, he seized one of its legs. The leg was almost as thick as a tree-trunk.



4. So powerful was the Roc that it did not notice the weight of Sinbad. Up, up into the sky it soared. Soon it was flying so high that Sinbad could no longer breathe in comfort. His arms began to ache but he did not dare to loosen his grip on the leg.



5. Then, on the ground below, the sharp-eyed Roc saw a great serpent. To a bird of such huge size, the serpent appeared no bigger than a worm. At once it flew down to catch it and Sinbad was thankful for the chance to let go and jump to the ground.



6. With the serpent in its beak the Roc flew off, but Sinbad's joy at his escape did not last long. He found himself in a deep valley surrounded by mountains, the walls of which were so high and steep that he had not the faintest chance of climbing them.

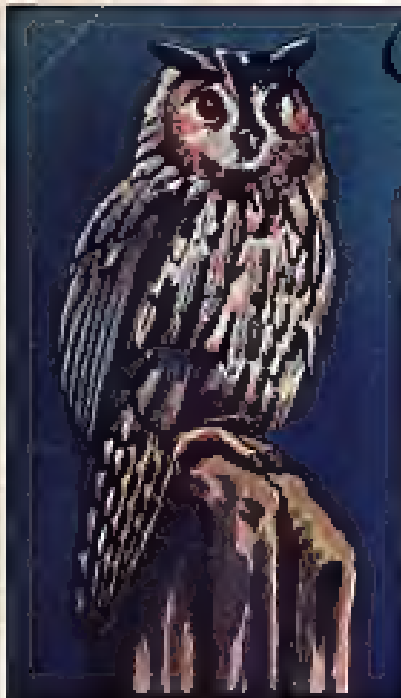


7. "How I am no better off than I was before," said Sinbad. As he walked unhappily through the valley, he saw how the ground glistened and sparkled. "Why, there are diamonds everywhere," he said. "And some are larger than I have ever seen before!"



8. All day Sinbad wandered around the valley, trying in vain to find a way of escape from it. Evening came, and with it Sinbad saw a sight that made his heart tremble. The serpents which had been hiding from the Roc now came out looking for food.

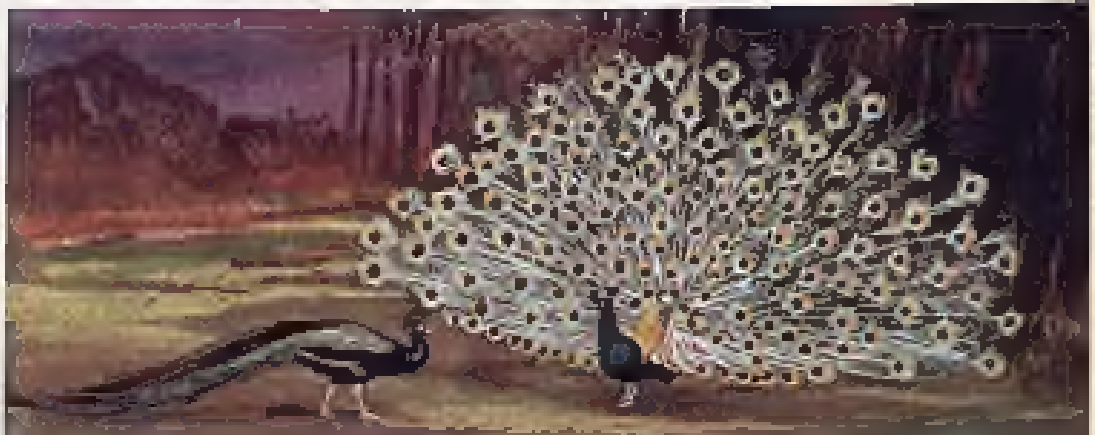
See what happens to Sinbad next week in the Valley of Diamonds and Serpents . . . and get your free Gift.



# The WISE OLD OWL

## Knows all the answers

Interesting answers to pecking questions asked by children (and their parents, too!).



### 1. Does the peahen have a big tail?

"No. Only the peacock, the male peafowl, has the long, beautifully-coloured feathers. They form a long train behind the bird and he spreads them out to make a gorgeous display when he wants to attract a mate. Then he struts up and down in front of the peahen, which is a rather drab little bird. Because they are so lovely, peacocks have long been kept as ornamental birds, and those shown are Indian Blue peacocks."



### 2. What is a volcano?

"A volcano is simply a hole in the earth's crust, through which come clouds of gases, dust and cinders and streams of molten lava. As ash and lava build up around the hole, it gradually forms into a mountain. A volcano from which gas and lava pour is called an active volcano. A dormant volcano is one which only smokes."

### 3. Why do ox-peckers perch on a rhinoceros?

"The ox-pecker, which is a kind of starling, perches on the backs of the rhinoceros and other large animals to pull out the ticks which bury themselves in the animal's hide. The ox-pecker gets an easy meal and the rhinoceros is freed from the ticks which irritate it. The birds also warn them of danger by flying away when startled."



### 4. Which is the longest ship in the world?

"The United States aircraft-carrier 'Enterprise', which is 1,123 feet long and has a huge flight deck, is the world's longest ship."

Launched in 1960, she was the first nuclear-powered aircraft-carrier and can cruise for 5 years without refuelling."